

## BULB FORCING REMINDERS

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To produce quality tulips, hyacinths and other bulbs, growers must pay attention to fine details in their culture.

When bulbs are moved from the storage area into the greenhouse, three details in their culture should be followed to insure a first-quality plant.

First, good watering practices should be observed. Plants should be watered in the morning, whenever possible. This is to allow foliage to dry. If two waterings are necessary, make the second application in early afternoon. This is to minimize disease promoting conditions on leaves and flowers.

Second, forcing temperatures are most important. Most bulbs can be forced between 55-65°F at night with the day temperature not exceeding 70°F.

Flowering Date	Tulips			Daf.		Hyacinths			Crocus	
	55°	60°	65°	55°	60°	55°	60°	65°	55°	60°
Days from start of forcing to flower										
Feb. 5	40	32	24	32	27	24	20	16	15	12
15	38	30	23	27	23	21	17	14	12	10
25	35	28	22	23	20	18	14	12	10	8
Mar. 5	33	27	21	10	17	15	12	10	8	7
15	31	26	21	17	15	12	10	8	5	5
25	29	25	21	15	13	10	9	7		
Apr. 5	27	24	21	13	12	8	7	6		
15	25	22	20	12	11	7	6	5		

Third, the causes of disease should be minimized. Temperatures and ventilation should be watched closely. A protective fungicide should be applied at 7- to 10-day intervals to prevent the spread of Botrytis, a most serious problem in bulbs.

Fungicides available are:

Termil--smoke

Daconyl 2787 75% WP-- 1 1/2 lbs./100 gal.

1 1/2 tbsp./gal.

Captan 50% WP--2 lbs./100 gal.

2 tbsp./gal.

Ferbam 65 or 76% WP--2 lbs./100 gal.

2 tbsp./gal.

Zineb 65% WP--1 lb./100 gal.

1 tbsp./gal.

Benomyl--8 oz./100 gal.

2 tsp./gal.

While keeping these three factors in mind, losses during the forcing period can be minimized and quality plants produced.